

This list of accomplishments underscores Senator DOLE's commitment to serving the public at large.

Again, I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator DOLE and wish her well as she leaves the Senate.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for fiscal year 2008 prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This is my final report for fiscal year 2008.

This report shows the effects of congressional action through October 1, 2008. Since my last report, dated September 12, 2008, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed P.L. 110-329, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues used in this report are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the 2009 budget resolution.

The estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$5.2 billion for budget authority and \$2.4 billion for outlays while

current level revenues are above the budget resolution by \$3 billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter and accompanying tables from CBO be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

Hon. KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2009 budget and is current through October 1, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter, dated September 11, 2008, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329). Division B of the act provided \$22.9 billion for disaster relief and recovery for 2008; the entire amount was designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Amounts so designated are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution.

tion. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 of Table 2 of the report).

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

[In billions of dollars]			
	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (—) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,456.2	2,451.0	– 5.2
Outlays	2,437.8	2,435.3	– 2.4
Revenues	1,875.4	1,878.4	3.0
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	463.7	463.7	0.0
Social Security Revenues	666.7	666.7	0.0

¹ S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, assumed \$108.1 billion in budget authority and \$28.9 billion in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-252 (see footnote 2 of table 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation, excluding amounts designated as emergency requirements (see footnote 2 of table 2), that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

[In millions of dollars]			
	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,879,400
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,441,010	1,394,887	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,604,649	1,635,118	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	– 596,805	– 596,805	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	2,448,854	2,433,200	1,879,400
Enacted this session:			
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252) ²	0	7	0
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-275)	1,942	1,924	1
Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-289) ²	203	203	– 968
Higher Education Opportunity Act (P.L. 110-315)	– 10	0	0
Total Current Level ^{2,3,4}	2,135	2,134	– 967
Total Budget Resolution ⁵	2,450,989	2,435,334	1,878,433
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁶	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401
Adjusted Budget Resolution	– 108,056	– 28,901	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	2,456,181	2,437,777	1,875,401
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	3,032
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	5,192	2,443	n.a.

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110-181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-232), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-234), SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-245).

² Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level total, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252)	115,808	35,350	n.a.
Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-289)	4,106	187	n.a.
Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329)	22,859	0	n.a.
Total	142,773	35,537	n.a.

³ For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.

⁴ The scoring for P.L. 110-318, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund, does not change current level totals. P.L. 110-318 appropriated approximately \$8 billion to the Highway Trust Fund. The enactment of this bill followed an announcement by the Secretary of Transportation on September 5, 2008, of an interim policy to slow down payments to states from the Highway Trust Fund. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that P.L. 110-318 will reverse this policy and restore payments to states at levels already assumed in current level. Thus, no change is required.

⁵ Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,563,262	2,465,711	1,875,392
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (SPR Act) (section 323(d))	– 950	– 950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Heroes Act) (section 323(d))	0	0	8
For adjustment to debt service for the SPR and Heroes acts (section 323(d))	– 7	– 7	0
For the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (sections 221(f) and 227)	1,942	1,924	1
For the Higher Education Opportunity Act (section 222)	– 10	0	0

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401
⁶ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$108,056 million in budget authority and \$28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have been reduced for purposes of comparison. SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office. Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.			

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL SCOTT DIMOND

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Cpl Scott Dimond of Franklin, NH. On Monday, October 13, 2008, Corporal Dimond was tragically taken from us when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and his patrol was engaged in small-arms attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan. My deepest sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Scott's family and loved ones who have suffered this grievous loss. At 39 nine years old, Scott will always be remembered as a dedicated citizen who consistently put others before himself.

Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during his senior year in high school but was medically discharged after a serious football injury. Still determined to serve his fellow citizens, Scott began a career in law enforcement. He served 18 years with the Franklin Police Department, retiring in 2006 as a sergeant. Upon his retirement, Scott's unwavering determination to serve others remained. He enlisted in the New Hampshire National Guard while working toward a degree as a registered nurse, enabling Scott to assist others in a new way—the health care profession. To any observer, Scott's professional pursuits will forever echo selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

As a member of an embedded tactical training team, there is no doubt that Scott's law enforcement background and his willingness to help others successfully contributed to the mentoring and strengthening of the Afghan army and police force, accelerating the eventual return of American military personnel from the battlefield. Consistent with the rest of his life, Scott routinely put his country and his fellow soldiers before himself. Because of his devotion and sense of duty, the safety and liberty of countless Americans is more secure. Unquestionably, Scott is a shining example of the highest caliber of person that New Hampshire, and this country, can produce. We are honored to speak of his contributions, spirit, and dedication. In the words of Daniel Webster—"what a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality." May God bless Cpl Scott Dimond, his family, and all those who are currently serving in uniform.

PROTECTIVE FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN SUMATRA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to call attention to the recent action of the Government of Indonesia to preserve the endangered rain forests an ecosystems of Sumatra.

On October 10, 2008, the Indonesian Government, in cooperation with the

World Wildlife Fund, WWF, announced an agreement between the 10 provincial governors of Sumatra to protect biodiversity on the world's sixth largest island. Although long overdue, this is an important first step towards conservation of a unique habitat at a critical time.

Sumatra is the only place on Earth where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans co-exist. It has also gained a reputation for having lost almost half of its natural forest cover since 1985. The rapid expansion of palm oil and pulpwood plantations, as well as rampant illegal logging, have been largely to blame. These activities have contributed to the precipitous decline in numbers of these endangered species, whose habitat has become a patchwork of disconnected small parcels of forest.

This action to protect the forests is important not only for Indonesia but for the rest of the world. Thirteen percent of Indonesia's remaining forests grow on peat soil, which emits large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when trees are felled. Further destruction of these forests will contribute to global warming at a time when we should be doing everything possible to reduce greenhouse gases.

This agreement represents a significant change of attitude and policy, for which President Yudhoyono and his government deserve credit. Implementing the agreement will be difficult, requiring additional resources for alternative economic opportunities for people living in these areas, and for enforcement, and I urge the U.S. Agency for International Development and other donors to support it.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I want to take a moment to speak about the budget of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC.

The fiscal year 2009 State and Foreign Operations bill, reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 18, 2008, recommends \$254 million for the MCC. Since this is substantially less than the \$2 billion requested by the President, it was predictable that the Senate committee's action would cause concerns among the MCC and many of its supporters, as well as governments that seek MCC funding. Those concerns have been expressed and I want to address them briefly today. While differences are inevitable in the legislative process, it is important that such differences not be based on a misunderstanding or confusion about the facts.

During the past several months, I have heard that some of those who

have complained about the Senate committee's action have suggested that it was motivated by an antipathy towards the MCC and a desire to close it down or dramatically curtail its functions. That is incorrect.

To begin with, we have commended the MCC for what it has accomplished since its inception 4 years ago. Several compacts are beginning to show tangible results, including the implementation of agriculture, infrastructure and other projects. Ambassador John Danilovich, the MCC's CEO, has been a strong leader at a critical time, and I commend him as well as deputy CEO Rodney Bent. They have both done a fine job of representing the MCC, both here and abroad.

Earlier this year, when the subcommittee was dividing up funds allocated to State and Foreign Operations, we faced many difficult choices. Our fiscal year 2009 allocation was \$2 billion below the President's budget request, and the President underfunded or failed to fund many critical programs of interest to both Democrats and Republicans. For example, he cut funding for family planning/reproductive health by over \$100 million below the fiscal year 2008 level. He cut the U.S. contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria by \$350 million. He short-changed humanitarian relief programs, peacekeeping, democracy programs, environment and energy programs. There are many other examples.

We also considered the fact that Congress had appropriated \$7.5 billion for the MCC, and by July 18 only \$235 million had been disbursed of which a significant portion was for administrative expenses. While we made clear that we were not advocating faster disbursements, we do not support additional compacts until more of the funds we have already appropriated produce sustainable results.

Many compacts were slow getting off of the ground, in some cases because the MCC rightly insisted that governments make further refinements, or because the contracting process took longer than expected. These kinds of delays are predictable and do not reflect poorly on the MCC. Unfortunately, I have heard that some MCC personnel in country are being urged to disburse funds more quickly. As we have said before, this is not our intent, particularly if it risks short-cutting procurement guidelines or other safeguards, or otherwise negatively affects the quality of implementation of compacts.

I do not know what the optimal rate of disbursement is for the MCC. It may be disbursing funds at the right rate.